

Washington, DC -- On Friday, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), a former 3-Star Admiral and the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. Congress, issued the following remarks on the Iraq resolution disapproving of the President's escalation plan in Iraq.

"The House of Representatives is closest to the will of the people since its members are reelected every two years, and should most reflect public opinion," noted Joe. "Therefore, to have the President hear this debate on the resolution - and to have a majority support it - serves a useful purpose. But it's not sufficient, because our overall strategic security is being harmed as long as we are in Iraq. That is why I have submitted binding legislation that mandates that we are to redeploy out of Iraq by the end of 2007, but remain in the region.

"This date certain forces the Iraqis to accept political responsibility for their country and to cease the sectarian violence which only they can do, while the US must lead with confidence in directly working with all regional nations—including Iran and Syria—to work for stability and relative peace."

On February 8th, Joe introduced the "Enhancing America's Security through Redeployment from Iraq Act," which **sets a deliberate timetable for the redeployment of United States Armed forces from Iraq by the end of 2007 in order to best address America's security interests both at home and abroad.**

In order to better address our global security interest and to improve the readiness of our Armed Forces, this binding legislation requires that:

All United States Armed Forces serving in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom shall be redeployed outside of Iraq, to locations within the Middle East or Southwest Asia regions, to other regions of the world, or returned to the United States, by December 31, 2007, with the exception of:

- Special Operations Forces assigned outside of Iraq that conduct either targeted counter-terrorism operations or periodic support operations of the Iraqi security forces in Iraq.
- Members of the Air Force and Naval Forces assigned to locations within the Middle East region, but outside of Iraq for the purposes of conducting air operations (including air operations

in support of combat operations) to support the Iraqi Armed Forces.

- Targeted counter-terrorism operations.

Funds for Operation Iraqi Freedom spent after December 31st, 2007, may only be used for the purpose of providing funding for the personnel and activities listed above.

The redeployment of Armed Forces under the "Enhancing America's Security through Redeployment from Iraq Act" shall be carried out at a deliberate, orderly pace that allows the full security of the members of our Armed Forces.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. Congress.

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